

# MIRACLES

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



## HEALING OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Read Luke 7:1-10

Jesus came down from the mountain where he had been teaching (the Beatitudes we learned about last week) and enters Capernaum in Galilee.

*(Find Capernaum on the map.)*

A Roman centurion humbly sends people to beseech Jesus to heal his cherished

1

### GOAL

Learn about two of the miracles of Christ & expand our literacy in relation to icons

2

### AT CHURCH

We learn about the miracles of Christ during the Gospel readings.

3

### AT HOME

We learn about the miracles of Christ when we read the Bible to our kids at home.



#### Centurion:

Originally, a man in charge of 100 Roman soldiers & discipling them; later 80 men



#### Nain:

A village just south of Nazareth in lower Galilee



#### Widow:

A woman who's husband has died

servant. This centurion knew that Jews would be ritually unclean if they interacted with Gentiles. Therefore the centurion sends the nearby Jewish elders to beg Jesus to heal the servant. The elders want to make sure Jesus understands that the servant is a good man as they tell Him, "for whom He should do this was deserving, for he loves our nation, and has built, us a synagogue."

Jesus agrees and begins to walk towards the centurion's house. The centurion sends more people to implore Jesus not to come any closer - "Say the word, and my servant will be healed." The faith that this centurion showed had Jesus marveling at his deep faith. The servant was immediately healed from a distance.

St. Luke, the Physician, phrases this miracle slightly different than St. Matthew. While Matthew uses a more generic term declaring the servant is "healed", Luke uses a more medical term to declare that the servant was "in good health."

## RAISING OF THE WIDOW'S SON IN NAIN

Read Luke 7:11-17

The day after healing the centurion's servant in



Capernaum, Jesus was in Nain. As He approached the city gate - remember that oftentimes the cities had a large outer wall built around them in order to protect them from invaders - Jesus came across a large burial procession for a man who had recently died. This man was the only son of his mother and she was a widow. This was a devastating circumstance during this time period because women were supported by the men in their family.

Christ felt compassion and love upon this woman and raised her son from the dead!

The Church has continually built churches upon the sites of significant events. This is done as a witness to these events and the great faith of the people. The church in Nain was named, "The Church of the Resurrection of the Widow's Son."

## EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor** by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 149-165

**The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke** by Blessed Theophylact, pages 73-81



## ICONS

In the icon of Christ healing the centurion's servant, you see Christ towards the left side and His disciples behind Him. On the right side of the icon, you see the centurion and his ill servant. Christ is blessing the ill servant.

In the icon of the raising of the widow's son, you see Christ towards the center of the icon blessing the man who had recently died and then was resurrected by Jesus. At the center, bottom of the icon you see the mother of the son who is on her knees before Christ.

Oftentimes, the cities were surrounded by a large wall and the only way to enter and exit the city was through the city gates.

You also see the two large crowds essentially colliding as one is entering the city (Christ and His followers) and one is exiting the city with a funeral procession. Luke records this dramatic surprise with a "behold!"

## 1ST SEMESTER REVIEW

We are going to take the opportunity to review what we've learned so far this year. You have several options for how you want to approach this review.

### OPTION 1: ICON SORT & SUMMARY

- **Ask the students to sort the icons into three piles**
  - **Feasts of the Church**  
(Can you place them in order of when we celebrate them during our ecclesiastical year?)
  - **Miracles of Christ**
  - **Parables of Christ**

- **Then ask the students to write a short summary (or major points) of each icon on a post-it note.**

### OPTION 2: CHOOSE AND TELL

- **Ask each student to choose one icon and then tell the class about it.**

### OPTION 3: TIMELINE & MAP

- **Review the events we have studied thus far about St. John the Baptist and Christ's life**  
Do you have more information to add to the timeline? Do you want to match the icons to the summaries on the timeline?
- **Review the places we've studied on the map**  
Call out a location, have the student find it and ask what happened there. For example, "Bethlehem." The student would find the city on the map and then explain that this is where Jesus was born.

### OPTION 4: I DON'T REMEMBER OR DON'T KNOW

- Ask the students to look at the icons we've studied. Is there a lesson they missed and want to learn about it? Is there one that they didn't fully understand or forgot what it was about? Take the opportunity to go over the icon with them.
- Is there a lesson that they went home and thought about and now have a question about it?

## SING

**Middle School:** Save O Lord Your People

**High School:** More Honorable Than the Cherubim

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## AT HOME

### FOR PARENTS

**S**ince the illnesses (of the people) were many and varied, and Hadjiephentis (St. Arsenios) could not always find a corresponding prayer for each, he would take the book of Psalms and use those as well. He would read the Gospel usually in only very serious cases, such as for the blind, the mute, the paralyzed and the possessed. When

he saw someone physically ill, who was also spiritually sick, he did not heal him at once, but gradually, that is, he told him to come again and again, until he had healed him spiritually, and only then did he also miraculously make him physically well with the final prayer.

Saint Paisios of Mount Athos

*Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian, page 63*

## HOME ACTIVITY #11

### WATCH TOGETHER AND DISCUSS:

- (YouTube) [Capernaum, Greek Orthodox Christian Church on the Sea of Galilee](#) - It's important for us to read the Bible and the lives of the saints to our children often. When we have taught our kids about the life of Christ and His saints, they have a foundation for reading the icons around them.
- (YouTube) [Nain Israel: Come with me to where Jesus raised the widow's son](#) - The Church has often built churches upon sites as a witness to Christ's life and His saints.



ΟΧΙΩΜΕΝΟΥ ΤΟΝ  
ΥΟΝΤΕΚΑΘΝΤΑΧΧ.

ΙΟΧΙ

